

WALL ST.

The same direct action on a much larger scale will win for the farmers all their struggles. The program of the Conference will guide tens of thousands of more militant farmers. The farmers need the most careful education and organization in the class struggle as Lenin once pointed out. The Farmers' National Weekly, established by the Conference, will be of the utmost importance in this work. Already it has raised the battlecry of no conciliation or half-way victories. It demands for the farmers immediate cash relief. It urges the farmers not to lay down their pitchforks but to continue using them for debt moratorium for middle farmers and cancellation of debts for small farmers. It exposes schemes like inflation and bills like the Allotment Plan to show they will help only the rich farmer and hurt the majority of struggling farmers by imposing greater burdens on the consumers. It exposes farm misleaders like John Simpson, president of the Farmers' Union, praised by the Socialists as an advanced leader and Milo Reno who advised the Iowa farmers last fall, "Don't picket the roads. Picket your own gate." It is concerned about organizing all farm workers. It comes out strongly for solidarity between farmers and workers, regardless of race, creed or color.

The crisis deepens. Tobacco farmers cannot sell their tobacco; Reynolds & Co. makes a profit of thirty millions. Dairy farmers sell their milk for half the cost of production; Bordens makes eight millions. Wages fall. The army of unemployed mounts. Michigan declares a bank holiday. Roosevelt is being boosted as Dictator to reduce expenditures and reorganize the government. Capitalism is trying to solve its contradictions with fascism, with plans to saddle greater loads on the worker in order to have the farmer enjoy the same "parity" as the worker. This old attempt to develop antagonism between farmer and worker will fail. Workers are helping farmers fight evictions and foreclosures. Farmers attend meetings of the jobless and describe farm conditions. Farmers are planning regional conferences and state conferences and marches. They are determined that their wives and children have the first mortgages on their farms. Neither church, lawyers, sheriffs or those cow jockeys the bankers will stop them. The farmers have only just begun to fight.

MOE BRAGIN



## MACHADO'S END

The capitalist press—from the *Times* to the tabloids—has made a sensational "discovery." There is a reign of terror in Cuba. The "pearl of the Antilles" is covered with the blood of workers and peasants, and—what is much more shocking to the capitalist press—even of middle class opponents of President Machado. The government deals with the opposition "illegally"; all judicial "guarantees" have been abolished; the civil courts have been replaced by courts martial; and the secret police ruthlessly murders members of the opposition.

The *Times*, which has taken the lead in exposing the brutalities of the Machado regime, reports widespread misery in Cuba due to the catastrophic growth of unemployment as a result of the economic crisis. Out of a total population of 3,500,000 in Cuba, there are 500,000 unemployed. The average wage for labor has dropped from three dollars to fifty cents a day. Furthermore, the *Times* reports, all labor organizations have been driven underground, and following a recent strike some thirty labor leaders were murdered by government agents.

The fact that the capitalist press has only now begun to reveal details of the white terror in Cuba does not mean that this terror is of recent origin. On the contrary, Machado has for years ruled through imprisonment and assassination not only with the knowledge but with the active financial and political support of American imperialism. Without that support he could not have maintained himself in power. And because American capital was upholding Machado, the American capitalist press concealed the brutalities of his regime, just as today it continues to conceal the reign of terror against workers and peasants organizations in Mexico, Venezuela and other Latin American countries where terror is an instrument for protecting the interests of American imperialism.

If the capitalist press is suddenly "shocked" by Machado's crimes it is hardly out of sympathy for the oppressed and exploited workers and peasants of Cuba. The real reason for the anti-Machado campaign is revealed in a recent article in the *Times* entitled the "Economic Outlook for Cuba." This article contains precise figures proving that the Machado government is bankrupt. It cannot continue to exist. The time is near at hand when it will be unable to pay the interest and principal on loans which it obtained from American banks. It will be unable to balance its budget or pay its army.

About fifty percent of Cuba's total revenues, according to the *Times*, are used for maintaining the army and police and for paying off the interest on foreign loans. The American banks which for years have financed the butcher Machado are now convinced that only a drastic reduction in the army budget will enable them to receive part payment on their loans. But a reduction of the army—so necessary for the American bankers—is precisely what Machado cannot do. Without the army Machado could not remain in power one day.

Machado has tried every other way of staving off bankruptcy. Hundreds of government employees have been fired; those who have been retained have had their salaries cut one-third, and even these reduced salaries have not been paid for many months. All educational institutions have been closed. The government's financial situation is so precarious that it would have been compelled to default its last payments to the Chase National Bank and the National City Bank of New York had it not received last December advance payments against future customs duties from the Standard, Sinclair, and Shell-Mexican oil companies and a short term loan from the Chase.

The "discovery" by the capitalist press after all these years that Machado is an assassin merely reflects the anxiety of American capital over its Cuban investments, which total \$1,750,000,000. Of this total, \$545,000,000 is invested in sugar, formerly Cuba's leading industry, now completely bankrupt. Cuba's total sugar crop in 1931 sold for one-thirteenth the amount received in 1920;

and recently the National City Bank, which invested \$25,000,000 in the General Sugar Corporation, reported the value of this investment at one dollar "in view of the unprecedented conditions in the industry."

Under Machado, Cuba's financial system is so disorganized that the government compels importers to pay advances on future import taxes for goods which have not yet even been ordered. Hundreds of businesses have been closed for non-payment of these advance taxes. At the same time, many tax collectors, failing to receive their salaries from the government, pocket part or all of the taxes which they manage to collect. Under such circumstances, the Machado government will have another deficit of about \$15,000,000 by June, just when it will owe \$15,000,000 in interest and amortization payments to the American bankers.

Cuban loans are of special concern to U. S. bankers. As distinguished from other Latin American loans, which the bankers pass on to bond-buyers, American financial institutions have made direct loans to the Cuban government which have not been floated on the market. Default on these loans would be a direct loss to the banks.

From the viewpoint of the bankers, Machado's chief crime is that he is unable to meet the bankers' demands for payments on loans. It is time, they feel, to let the opposition exploit the workers and peasants of Cuba. The opposition in power—backed by a population sick and tired of Machado's terror—will be able to afford a smaller army and police, a cut in whose budget will just about meet the demands of the American imperialists.

**John Beecher**

## Annual Report To the Stockholders

### I

*he fell off his crane  
and his head hit the steel floor and broke like an egg  
he lived a couple of hours with his brains bubbling out  
and then he died  
and the safety clerk made out a report saying  
it was carelessness  
and the crane man should have known better  
from twenty years experience  
than not to watch his step  
and slip in some grease on top of his crane  
and then the safety clerk told the superintendent  
he'd ought to fix that guardrail*

### II

*out at the open hearth  
they all went to see the picture  
called Men of Steel  
about a third-helper who  
worked up to the top  
and married the president's daughter  
and they liked the picture  
because it was different*

### III

*a ladle burnt through  
and he got a shoe-ful of steel  
so they took up a collection through the mill  
and some gave two-bits  
and some gave four  
because there's no telling when*

### IV

*the stopper-maker  
puts a sleeve brick on an iron rod  
and then a dab of mortar  
and then another sleeve brick  
and another dab of mortar  
and when he has put fourteen sleeve bricks on  
and fourteen dabs of mortar  
and fitted on the head  
he picks up another rod  
and makes another stopper*

### V

*a hot metal car ran over the nigger switchman's leg  
and nobody expected to see him around here again  
except maybe on the street with a tin cup  
but the superintendent saw what an ad  
the nigger would make with his peg leg  
so he hung a sandwich on him  
with safety slogans  
and he told the nigger just to keep walking  
all day up and down the plant  
and be an example*

### VI

*he didn't understand why he was laid off  
when he'd been doing his work  
on the pouring tables OK  
and when men with less age than he had  
weren't laid off  
and he wanted to know why  
but the superintendent told him to get the hell out  
so he swung on the superintendent's jaw  
and the cops came and took him away*

### VII

*they scrub the hospital floor  
and mop it clean  
and then a nigger in overalls  
making noises  
through a jaw pushed half a block east  
spits blood all over it  
and pieces of teeth*

### VIII

*he shouldn't have loaded and wheeled  
a thousand pounds of manganese  
before the cut in his belly was healed  
but he had to pay his hospital bill  
and he had to eat  
he thought he had to eat  
but he found out  
he was wrong*

### IX

*in the company quarters  
you've got a steelplant in your backyard  
very convenient  
gongs bells whistles mudguns steamhammers and slag  
blowing up  
you get so you sleep through it  
but when the plant shuts down  
you can't sleep for the quiet*